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R. R. Brown, Commander, will be despatched as
above on WEDNESDAY, the 22nd instant, at
FOUR P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.
Hongkong, 14th March, 1882. [161
FOR MANILA.

THE Steamship
ESMERALDA,
Captain Talbot, will be despatched for the above
Port on WEDNESDAY, the 22nd inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, 17th March, 1882. [173]

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.
THE 100 At Steamship
METAPEDIA.

Captain Fowler, will be despatched for the above Port, on WEDNESDAY, the 22nd inst., at THREE P.M.
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RUSSELL & CO.

Hongkong, 17th March, 1882. [170]

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TANNADICE.

Captain S. G. Green, will be despatched as above
on THURSDAY, the 23rd March, at FOUR P.M.
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GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,

Hongkong, 15th March, 1882. [158]
FOR SYDNEY, VIA TAKAO.
 The Steamship

DECIMA.
Captain Petersen, will be despatched as above on or about 19th instant, and has room for a limited quantity of light freight.

For Freight, apply to
GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.
Hongkong, 14th March, 1882. [159]

FOR VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S

THE 100 A1 British Steamship
ESCAMBIA,

For Freight or Passage, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
 Hongkong, 17th March 1887

FOR VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S
ISLAND.
THE American Ship

SUMATRA,
Rock, Master, will load here for the above Port,
and will have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to

Hongkong, 13th February, 1882. [110]

FOR PORTLAND (OREGON).
THE 3/3 L. I. German Ship

FRITZ,
Lankenau, Master, will load here for the above
port, and will have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to

MELCHERS & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 16th February, 1882. [116]

THE 3/3 L.L. American ship
IMPORTER,
lylne, Master, will load here for the above

For Freight, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
 Hongkong, 7th February, 1882. [94]

FOR PORTLAND, OREGON.
THE 3/3 L. I. I. American Bark
EDWIN REED,

For Freight, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, 20th January, 1832. [110]

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.
HE 3/3 L. I. American Ship
ONEIDA.

Server, Master, will load here for the above Port,
 and will have quick despatch.
 For Freight, Apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
 Hongkong, 14th February, 1882.

FOR NEW YORK.
THE American Ship
MARY WHITRIDGE

man, Master, will load here for the above
t, and will have quick despatch.
or Freight, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Longkong, 16th Feb.

FOR NEW YORK.
THE 3/3 L. I. American Barquentine.

Gould, Master, will load for the above Port,
have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to
ARNHOLD, KARBBERG & Co

ongkong, 9th March, 1882. [184
FOR HAVRE AND LONDON.
THE Al British Bark

LUCIA,
Rowley, Master, will load for the above Ports
will have quick despatch.
or Freight, apply to
ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co

ongkong, 24th February, 1882. [124

Intimations.

NOW IN THE PRESS AND SHORTLY
TO BE PUBLISHED.



(BY AUTHORITY)

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the Philippine Islands; the British Colony of
Hongkong; and the Portuguese Colony of Macao.
The work will also contain the Principal Treaties
between European countries and the United
States and the countries, East of the Straits,
together with conditions of Trade, and the Port,
Customs, Consular, and Harbour Regulations for
the Ports of China and Japan; and a description
of the Ports, with the latest Trade Statistics
taken from the Reports of the Imperial Maritime
Customs and other reliable sources.

The various Governments and Municipal Corporations
have been applied to for information, and all Public
Bodies and Companies, Bankers, Merchants, Consuls,
and Professional and other Residents, have supplied
the necessary matter to ensure correctness upon forms
sent for that purpose. The Naval and Military positions
have been taken from the latest published official lists
and revised at Headquarters; in fact no pains have
been spared to make "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND
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Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed
to "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and
not to individuals by name. Correspondents are requested
to forward their name and address with communications
addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of
good faith. All letters for publication should be written on
one side of the paper only, and rejected communications can
not be returned. Advertisements and Subscriptions which
are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until
countermanded.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1882.

A more triumphant vindication of Sir John
Pope Hennessy's general policy as Governor
of Hongkong, than that contained
in his despatch to the Earl of Kimberley,
dated 24th January, 1882, could not possibly
have been desired by his most ardent
supporters. The complete collapse of the
factious Hongkong opposition, which from
time to time for years past has been threatening
to bring about His Excellency's downfall,
and cause his recall in disgrace, could hardly
have been anticipated even by the distinguished
members of the political clique, although they
must have known right well on what a rotten
reed they were resting their fondest hopes. At
every point the Governor has not only vanquished
his opponents, but he has left behind him a
record of statesman-like measures, planned
and carried into effect during his term of
office, that has never been equalled in the
history of the Colony; a record that will hand
Sir John Pope Hennessy's name down to future
generations of Hongkong residents as the most
far-seeing and liberal minded ruler that ever held
the reins of power in this dependency of the
British Crown.

We have no intention of going deeply
into the matter of the Estimates of 1882—
out of which so much comic capital has made
by our local contemporaries in the interests
of the special opponents of the Governor,
but it is impossible to carefully peruse the
remarkable covering despatch sent by His
Excellency to Lord Kimberley on the 30th
of August last, and compare the matters
therein dealt with, with the detailed statistics
of the Colonial Treasurer's Reports since
Sir Arthur Kennedy's time, without being struck
by the increased prosperity of the Colony
during the past few years. It was, of course,
only in the natural order of things that
altered times and improved circumstances
would increase general prosperity, and therefore
we are not disposed to give credit to Governor
Hennessy which is not actually his due, nor to
admit that the whole of his measures have been
for the public benefit, although there cannot
be a doubt that his general policy in
Hongkong has been of an advanced and
progressive character, the best fruits of
which will be reaped hereafter. His
Excellency is a capital letter writer, the
despatch now under review being a masterpiece
of diplomatic art.

In paragraph 6 Sir John Pope Hennessy,
very properly and very justly, we think,
in referring to the large revenue obtained in
1880, and the anticipated increase in come of
the following years, points to the connection
between the revenue of Hongkong and the
progress of eastern commerce, and shows how
both appear to be not unfavourably influenced
by the policy of treating the Chinese subjects
of Her Majesty on terms of perfect equality
with other residents in the Colony. This has
been the key-note of His Excellency's form of
Government in Hongkong, and although it has

met with the strongest opposition, and raised
up a perfect cloud of enemies against the
daring politician who had the courage of his
opinion, to maintain that a Chinaman who
respected the laws and paid his taxes had as
much right to the protection and privileges of
the Government as any other British subject,
who can doubt in the face of stern facts, that
it has proved a striking success? And moreover
outside certain circles, where old fashioned
autocratic notions of British supremacy still
prevail, the Governor's general treatment of
the Chinese, and the encouragement he has
given in developing the commercial prosperity
of the native race, have met with warm
approval. It was a triumph of no mean order
for Governor Hennessy to be able to direct the
attention of Lord Kimberley to a remarkable
passage from the speech in the Legislative
Council of an unofficial member, whose
opinions ought to carry great weight on such
a question. "I am sure every member of
Council," remarked this gentleman, "joins
with me in congratulating your Excellency on
our financial position, and considering how
greatly our trade depends upon the industry
of the Chinese population, I think no
impartial observer of our fail to recognize
how favorably your Excellency's considerate
and sympathising policy towards the Chinese
has operated upon the trade of the place." How
different are these views from those so
vehemently advocated for so long in a portion
of the local press; what a contrast between
the impartial judgment of a gentleman, who
was thoroughly acquainted with his subject,
and the blatant blustering of excited
demagogues who were writing to orders! It
can now be generally accepted that the best
interests of the foreign and Chinese traders
are not opposed to each, and Governor
Hennessy is the first ruler in Hongkong who
had the foresight to discover this and the
energy to prove it by practical demonstration.

The references, in paragraph 11, to a
proposed Normal School form the weakest
point in the entire despatch. We have no
hesitation whatever in pronouncing this
scheme as quite impracticable and wholly
unnecessary. So far as we can gather, the
idea would appear to have originated with
Dr. Errel, who certainly has a good claim
to be considered an authority on the educational
requirements of the Colony, and it is likely
enough that whatever private views His
Excellency might have held on the subject,
would give way to the ripe experience of the
Inspector of Schools. Theoretically, the scheme
had much to recommend it; as a practical
measure, judged from a practical standpoint,
it should have been shelved after the preliminary
inquiries into its probable usefulness and
prospects of ultimate success. Some men
are exceedingly liberal in laying out
money which is not their own, and in this
particular instance, we cannot but conform
to the opinion of Lord Kimberley that the
proposed *perennial* of the Normal College,
or rather the expenditure recommended by
Dr. Errel, was extremely lavish and altogether
beyond the value of the results likely to be
obtained, even if the school proved pre-eminently
successful. To pay the principal of this college
\$2,400 per annum with an allowance of \$180
for house rent was, under existing circumstances,
beyond wasteful extravagance; it was a direct
slight upon the principal centre of Government
education in this Colony. That the principal
of an institution of this character should at
once receive \$240 per month, when the masters
of the Central School, experienced teachers like
Mr. Falconer and Mr. Arthur after long
years of service were receiving a little more
than half that amount, was one of those
extraordinary measures which passeth
comprehension. For the liberal proposals
of the local Government the gentleman
selected for the berth was of course in no way
responsible, and no doubt he was as much
surprised as the outside public at such
unlooked-for munificence. However, the
Secretary of State declined to sanction
the scheme on the terms proposed, and
although it is dragging out a lingering
existence it is doubtful if it will ever
become a permanent institution in our midst.

The encouragement given by Governor
Hennessy and his predecessors to tree-planting
in the Colony, has already borne good fruit.
The appearance of our hill-sides covered
with young trees forms a grand contrast to
the rugged barrenness of a few years ago,
and there can be no doubt that the beneficial
results of our extensive afforestation from a
sanitary point of view, more than justifies
the large sums annually expended by this
department.

The addition to the number of our street
lamps, under a special arrangement with
the Gas Company, is a desirable improvement,
which has already met with public
approbation; and it is noteworthy, in the
face of recent complaints as to the wretched
condition of our streets, that the expenditure
in maintenance and improvements is
always on the increase. The proposed

new Water Police Station, which we are
disposed to consider as a most necessary
adjunct to the proper performance of
police duties in the harbour and on the
adjacent peninsula, the Observatory, New
Road, Water Works, and sundry other
important matters are only lightly dealt
with in this despatch, so we need not
specially refer to them here. The proposed
abolition of license fees on junks,
cargo-boats, and fishing boats appears to
us an altogether unnecessary measure,
but this and other important subjects
treated in subsequent despatches we can
deal with in a future issue.

The Japanese corvette *Tinkuba Kan*, 12,
Captain Kasama, which we announced on
Thursday last as on her way to this port,
arrived in harbour this morning, and shortly
afterwards saluted the Port, the Admiral,
and the officer commanding the *Stetich*. The
Tinkuba Kan has left Japan for a ten months
cruise, and will visit Australia, probably
calling at Hobart Town, Nelson, and
Auckland. She is without the foreign naval
officer which it has been considered necessary
hitherto to carry, a sign that Japanese naval
officers are able to do without the leading
strings to which they have been accustomed
since first adopting ships of foreign model. The
Tinkuba Kan will sail for the south on Saturday
next.

The *Gazette* received by the mail yesterday
contains quite a number of promotions affecting
this command. In addition to that of Paymaster
Gamble to a lieutenancy, announced in another
place, the *Gazette* contains the following:—
Captain Stanforth of the Inniskillings to be
Major, *vice* J. W. F. Buxton, seconded for
service on the staff. Captain Stanforth has
already proceeded to the Straits Settlements with
a detachment of the Regiment. Captain George E.
Harley of "The Buffs" to be major, *vice* G.
A. Alexander, seconded. Quartermaster
Sergeant Joseph Webb Fairley of the same corps
to be Quartermaster, *vice* W. G. Morgan, retired.
Quartermaster Morgan, who is now serving
here, retires with the honorary rank of Major.

The international five days' billiard match, 3,000
up, for 10,000 francs played at the Grand Hotel,
Paris, between the French and American
champions, Vignaux and Slosson, ended in a
clever victory for the American, Vignaux having
scored but 2,553 when Slosson had made the 3,000.
On the American spectators learning that their
countryman had won, their exultation knew no
limit. Crowding round the board they pressed
forward to shake hands with Mr. Slosson, shouted
wild "hurrahs," and joined in various national
airs of a jubilant character. A *ush* was then
made to the telegraphic offices to transmit the
happy tidings to New York, and the victorious
champion was borne home in triumph. In the
previous matches played between these crack
players Vignaux has always been victorious.

According to intelligence published by the
Turkistan *Gazette*, the Chinese *attache* in
Tashkent, Dr. Yn Erkelon, has proceeded to
Kuldja as the bearer to General Friede of a
proclamation of Tsian Tsun Tsun, announcing that
a complete amnesty for all transgressions has
been granted by Bogda Khan to all the inhabitants,
both Chinese and Mahomedan, of the Ili territory.
The proclamation was posted up at all the mosques
in the city, and crowds of people assembled
who loudly expressed distaste of its contents and
attempted to tear it down. Precautionary
measures were taken to protect Erkelon from
insult, and up to the present there has been no
actual disturbance, though considerable excitement
prevails. Erkelon started on his return to
Tashkent under an escort of Cossacks, as he
had discovered that the Dzungars were inimically
disposed towards him.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard*
observes that the Extraordinary Mission which
has been appointed to convey to the Sultan the
Order of the Black Eagle will leave on Tuesday
next, and proceed to Constantinople *via* Trieste.
The appointment of this Mission is certainly a
proof of the great friendship that prevails
between Turkey and Germany, but it ought not
to be regarded as anything more. It is true that
the Porte recently sent to the German Embassy
at Istanbul the names of two German civil servants
and ten military men whose services it desired
to engage, but there is no foundation for the
reports that have been circulated that the
Turkish Ambassador in Berlin has received a
promise that the Porte shall be supplied with
as many German officials as it requires. The only
promise that was made was that no hindrance
should be offered to any German who desired to
enter the service of Turkey.

In three remand cases, in which jinnicks
coolies are charged with obtaining goods by
fraudulent means from the firms of McEwen
Frickel & Co. and Fournier & Co., and one coolie
with attempting to obtain goods fraudulently from
the firm of Lane, Crawford & Co., Inspector
Lindsay, in charge of the cases, applied this
morning for a further remand to enable him to
continue his enquiries into the swindles; and in
two of the cases he asked that the defendants
be allowed out on bail to assist him in his
enquiries, which was granted. The cases were
further remanded accordingly by Dr. Stewart.
Inspector Lindsay also applied for a remand,
to enable him to produce his witnesses, in two
other cases, up for the first time, in which
Anthony Santos Spencer, 14, of Hongkong, a
schoolboy, is charged with fraudulently obtaining
from Mrs. J. F. Rose, on the 2nd instant, three
umbrellas, and attempting to obtain fraudulently
from Mr. C. L. Thevenin, on the 4th instant, three
pairs of boots and one pair of shoes. Dr. Stewart
also granted a remand in these cases. The series
of swindles lately perpetrated on storerooms in
the Colony are at length in a fair way of being
brought home to the guilty party or parties.

TELEGRAMS for Bangkok can go forward by
mail closing at Singapore at 4 p.m. on Monday,
the 20th instant.

A TELEGRAM received late yesterday afternoon
states that the details of the earthquake at Costa
Rica were greatly exaggerated in the previous
announcement.

We learn by wire that the House of Commons
agreed to the Ministerial motion to adjourn the
debate after a protracted discussion on Mr.
Finlateral's Bill for amending the Land Act, the
Chief Secretary for Ireland admitting that revision
was necessary if the bill in the Commons continues.

In the Court of Bankruptcy on February the 6th
the Chief Judge had before him the case of the
O'Donoghue, M.P., on whose behalf an offer of
3s. 4d. in the pound was made. This offer was
to be considered by the creditors, and the hearing
was adjourned for the purpose.

We are glad to learn that the differences between
the Canons Tercentenary Committee and Mr.
Bastos, Jr., the well-known Macao advocate,
caused by the pamphlet written by the last-named
gentleman some two years ago, and which at one
time threatened to lead to proceedings in the
supreme Court, have been amicably adjusted, and
referred to the arbitration of mutual friends.

The numerous friends in the Colony of Pay-
master Sergeant Gamble of the Inniskillings, will
be pleased to hear that he has been gazetted to
a lieutenancy in the Northamptonshire Regiment
(formerly the 48th Foot), at present stationed in
Tipperary. Lieutenant Gamble, it will be remembered,
passed a very creditable examination here
for a commission some time ago. He proceeds
home in the troopship *Tyne* to join his corps.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON gave his farewell
performance in the City Hall Theatre last night to
a good house, performing a few feats which he
had not previously presented to his Hongkong
audiences. In accordance with his announcement
the Professor distributed a large number of
presents amongst the audience, including a
diamond ring and a watch, and the method in
which this was done gave entire satisfaction
and was the cause of frequent applause.

A GREAT fire is stated to have taken place on
the 8th ultimo in Devonport Dockyard. It broke
out in a building used as stores for hemp and
junk, and is supposed to have originated from
spontaneous combustion. A boundless supply
of water was available to subdue the flames, and
some two thousand soldiers, sailors, and dock-
yard labourers were engaged in the work. The
fire, however, raged for about two hours. The
damage is estimated at about £20,000.

A COOIE named Chun Atak, with a predilection
for roast goose, was charged before Mr. Wode-
house this morning with stealing a piece of that
savory meat, valued at twenty cents, from a
stall in Queen's Road West, and, the charge
being proved, was relegated to two hours in the
stocks at the scene of the offence. The unlucky
wight had not even the satisfaction of enjoying
the tit-bit, the piece of goose which he was
accused of stealing having been produced in Court
as damning evidence against him.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

A number of Irish fellow residents assembled
at St. Patrick's Hall last evening to do honor
to the Patron Saint of Ireland. The Hall was
hung with various flags, and, through the kindness
of Mrs. Fleming, an excellent tea was provided
for the military, naval men, and police who
attended, as also their wives and children. Tea
being finished, addresses suited to the occasion
were delivered by Father Borghigoli and Mr.
J. J. Francis, the latter gentleman being introduced
to the audience by Mrs. Fleming, in her
own droll way, as "a regular Irishman, a
thorough soldier, and one that has the gift of the gab."
In the course of his address, Mr. Francis alluded
to the recent narrow escape of the Queen, and
called upon all present to join him in wishing
Her Most Gracious Majesty a long and happy
life, and a happy and prosperous reign, and at its
close called for three cheers for His Holiness the
Pope, three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen,
and "one more" for Mrs. Fleming, all of which
were heartily given. Mrs. Fleming also made a
humorous speech which created much laughter,
and displayed no inconsiderable oratorical powers.
The concluding order, a dancing stage, presented
by Mr. Coxon, was erected, upon which two
"Brothers of boys" belonging to the Inniskillings,
exhibited, in character, the grace and beauties of
the Irish jig, and in several Irish songs the
flowery, humorous language which distinguishes
the ballad-makers of the Emerald Isle. Mr.
Fleming also made a contribution to the vocal
portion of the entertainment in the shape of one
of Moore's melodies, "The Meeting of the Waters,"
which she sang with much feeling. Several recita-
tions were also given, and altogether a very enjoy-
able evening was spent. We should not omit to
mention that a presentation of a handsome silver
bouquet-holder and card-case was made to Mrs.
Fleming by the Irish soldiers of the Inniskillings,
as a mark of their respect on their going away,
and in recognition of that lady's many estimable
qualities, and kindnesses to them whilst here.
A feature of the evening was an address by Mr.
Ng Hing Sang, the Chinese pupil who returned
thanks to His Excellency the Administrator on
the occasion of the recent distribution of prizes
at St. Joseph's College. This gentleman mounted
the stage, and spoke with remarkable fluency
for a considerable time on Irish and other topics,
quoting largely from various authors. He bids
fair to become a distinguished orator in the future.
The music was supplied by a violin and a piano,
the latter being presided at by Miss Bush.

School patron—Well, Mr. Syntax, you have a
very fair school here. Mr. Syntax—Yes, sir,
the school is well enough but the curriculum is
defective. Patron—What the curriculum defective?
I must see the architect at once about it,
and have it raised a few feet higher.

FIRE AT WANCHAI.

The peaceful maternal slumbers of many
residents were disturbed at about a quarter to
seven o'clock a.m. to-day by the sound of the
inevitable fire bell, which rang out loud and
clear on the sultry morning air, its province on
this occasion having been to notify the inhabitants
of the Colony that a fire had broken out in an
easterly direction. The scene of the conflagra-
tion was in Kat-On street, in Wanchai, in
one of a block of Chinese houses lying in the
valley formed by the hills round the base of
which circles Kennedy Road until it reaches
its termination near the Gap leading to
Happy Valley. The fire is reported to have
originated in the cook-house at the back, whence
it rapidly spread until it had enveloped the whole
of the house—a two-storied one—in its destructive
grasp; and when manual engine No. 7, from No.
2 Police station—the first to come up—arrived on
the scene, the house was unroofed and completely
gutted, leaving nothing to be done save to prevent
the flames spreading and involving the
adjoining houses on both sides. This was a
matter of no great difficulty, and although the
house on the west of the burned one slightly
caught, a stream of water from a hose soon obviated
all danger in that direction. The burned
house is reported to have been occupied by
grass-cutters, who are said to have had a
quantity of dried grass stored in it, the inflam-
mable nature of which may, perhaps, account for
the rapidly with which the flames spread and
gutted the house before any assistance had
arrived. Two Chinese manual engines were on
the scene, that of the Nam Pak Hong and another
belonging to a hong in Jervois Street, but there
was in reality no need for their services. No. 6
Government manual also came up, but was not
worked, No. 7 manual, which was dragged up to
the hill above the house and worked admirably,
being quite sufficient for all purposes. Mr.
McEwen, the Superintendent of the Government
Fire Brigade was present, also Mr. Horspool,
the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, as well
as several members of the Government and
Volunteer Fire Brigades. Crowds of Chinese
lined the hill above to the west, and when all
was nearly over, a herd of goats descended the
hill on to Kennedy Road near its termination, and
from that coign of vantage, appeared to survey the
crowd in the valley below with much interest.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

There is nothing particularly startling in last
night's *China Mail*, if we except the speculations
which the worthy leader writer indulges
in as to what new line Governor Hennessy has
taken in his attempt "to hoodwink the Home
Authorities" in the matter of the conversion of
the old Lock Hospital into a General Hospital.
As the speculations alluded to and the polite
reference to the Governor are not likely either
to injure or interest any body in Hongkong or
elsewhere, we need not dwell on them here.

Our contemporary hears "that the threatened
spoliation of the Botanic Garden-ground is so
regarded by H.E. Administrator Tonnochy that
he declines to take the responsibility of taking
such a step—the proximity of the land to the
"garden on the hill" notwithstanding. The
community generally, we doubt not, will entirely
agree that discretion, in this case, is by far the
better part of valour. Hon. W. H. Marsh will,
doubtless extirpate the absurd idea altogether." We
candidly avow that we are quite in the dark as
to what the threatened spoliation of the Botanic
Garden ground" actually means, and we should
imagine that Mr. Administrator Tonnochy is in a
similar state of darkness. The cringing allusion to
the "Hon. W. H. Marsh" is of course easily understood;
but it may fairly enough be asked if this contemptible
"butting" of an official, of whose views on the subject
the *China Mail* can know absolutely nothing,
is calculated to maintain the dignity of an independent
press!

The author of "Editorial Notes" is evidently
getting hard up for subjects to dilate upon. His
latest piece of advice to the Chinese, to under-
take the wholesale manufacture of "Telegraphic
Insulators," as "China possesses the advantage
of possessing the raw material in a natural state
and in unlimited quantities—conditions which do
not elsewhere obtain" (*sic*) should have appeared
in the comic morning journal, such ill-timed
levity being decidedly out of place in the columns
of the special champion of the missionaries.

The same writer informs us that "a rumour is
afloat that Labuan will be incorporated with the
Straits Settlements." Such a rumour may possi-
bly be afloat in the capacious brain of this fertile
genius, but certainly not elsewhere.

Our evening journal takes strange liberties with
its readers. Last night's two columns of the
China Mail's valuable space is occupied by
what are said to be "Late Telegrams" taken
from the San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*. They
are "late" telegrams without a doubt, but hardly
in the sense meant by our enterprising
contemporary. The dates of these telegraphic
items run from January 23rd to February 2nd,
there being not a single item of a later date. The
public are perfectly well aware that the
English mail which arrived yesterday brought
news from home up to February 10th, actually
eight days later than the latest of these "Late
Telegrams." We cannot help speculating as to
what new line the *China Mail* will take in
attempting "to hoodwink" its easily satisfied
constituency.

The *Mail* gives us one more opportunity of
directing attention to its great enterprise. The
Fochow items in last night's paper appeared in
the *Telegraph* on the 13th inst.—only five days ago.
The *Daily Press* has made the startling discovery
that a system of "petting" the prisoners
operated further boldly expresses the belief that the
"petting" system will have to be abandoned.
Before writing any more articles on criminal
statistics, crime in this Colony, and treatment of
criminals we would recommend our contemporary's
leader-writer to make himself somewhat more
acquainted with these several subjects. A visit
to the Gaol and half an hour's conversation with
any one of our intelligent police inspectors would
open his eyes to the truth of the matter, and
enlighten ignorance, which in a supposed leader
of public opinion, is simply deplorable.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The P. and O. steamer *Khiva*, Captain Scriven, with the English mail of the 10th February, arrived here yesterday evening. The subjoined telegrams are taken from our Indian files:—

PARIS, 21st February.
M. Roustan has been recalled from Tunis. It is reported he has been appointed French Minister at Washington.

LONDON, 26th February.
It is denied that Prince Bismarck has demanded explanations from the Russian Government regarding the speech made by General Skobeleff to the Serbian students at Paris.

The French Chamber of Deputies has passed the Bill introduced by M. Tirard that English goods be subject to the most favoured nation clause.

LONDON, 27th February.
Mr. Gladstone called a meeting of Liberal members today to consider the action of the Lords and the general course of business and to state the views of the Government generally. Mr. Gladstone declared that he would allow nothing to impair the administration of the Land Act. This declaration met with the unanimous approval of the meeting.

Severe fighting in Herzegovina; several thousand desolate emigrants have forcibly entered Montenegro.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone this evening moved to postpone the order of the day. A compromise, he said, would have been possible had the Lords agreed to exclude an enquiry into the judicial operation of the Land Act.

The House agreed to the motion by 300 against 167.

We take the following items from the *London and China Express* of the 10th inst.:—

Mr. J. Peave has given notice that he will call the attention of Parliament to the relations of this country with China in reference to the opium trade.

A pamphlet has been published by the National Association for the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts on "Lord Kimberley's Defence of the Government's brothel system at Hong Kong." It is a short introduction by the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P.

Mr. Gladstone has declined to receive a deputation of the opponents of the opium trade. A petition from Linlithgow for the abolition of the traffic has been presented to Parliament by Mr. M'Alagan.

Sir Hercules Robinson has accepted the offer of the Government to become a member of the Privy Council, as a reward for his services in connection with the settlement of the Transvaal. Sir Evelyn Wood has also been made a major-general in the army, with the rank of Major-General of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Sir H. Villiers receives the honour of K.C.M.G. President Brand has been offered the Grand Cross of the same Order, but he cannot accept it without the sanction of the Volksraad.

We hear that the engineers at the Kai-ling Colliery have pierced another seam of coal, the thickness being 8 feet 6 inches. In quality it is stated to be superior to any they have yet produced. We also hear that the canal, of which we have already given some account, is completed, as well as six miles of the railway to connect the mines with Tientsin. It is expected that coal will be delivered in Tientsin at the opening of the river next season. The company are also building in this country three sea-going and one river steamer for their service.

In consequence of the Budget for the current year having revealed a deficit, the Car has given orders that the estimates of all the public departments should be diminished by one-tenth. The result of this has been, in the case of the Admiralty, an alteration of the naval programme for the summer season. In the Baltic, the *Admiral* and *Daguer* will not be fitted out; in the Black Sea, the Imperial yacht *Sandwich* will remain inactive; in the Caspian, the gunboat *Scholar* will be laid up; and in the Pacific, the gunboat *Garnett* will return home from the China seas. The Atlantic cruiser *Europe*, which was to have gone out to the Mediterranean next summer, and the frigate *Miner*, ordered to the Pacific, will also remain at home.

A movement has been set on foot which has resulted in the formation of an association, under the presidency of Mr. Henry Charles, for the establishment of an international monetary standard. The object of the association is to be the promotion of the stability of values, by establishing the free coinage of silver and its use as money, under the same conditions as gold, and by advocating and furthering an international agreement, whereby a fixed relative value between gold and silver may be established, and the two metals may jointly form the currency of civilised nations; thus facilitating the adjustment of international balances, and lessening the excessive and needless fluctuations now so common attendant on home and foreign trade.

Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods have sold a collection of modern porcelain, enamels, bronzes, &c., from China and Japan. The following were some of the best prices:—A Hawthorn pattern basin, 109s.; three small turquoise kyilins, 109s.; a pair of Japanese bowls formed as sarks painted with groups of figures in colours, 109s.; a large Chinese crimson vase splashed with purple, 218s.; two Japanese dishes enamelled with flowers, colours on the background, and with turquoise borders, 359s.; a globe having a pattern jar, 159s.; a set of vases of Japanese enamel, with ring handles, chequered blue ground, and medallions of fish, birds, and flowers, in colours, 379s.

The *Siberian Gazette* publishes an account of acts of cruelty and violence done by the Chinese to some Russian Kirghese. According to these reports, 600 Chinese soldiers, under the leadership of the Amban of Tarbagatay, made a raid upon the Kirghese, carrying off eleven women, three girls, and six young children, and either burnt or otherwise destroyed all the Kirghese possessions. The losses inflicted upon the latter are estimated at 230,000 roubles. The claims for redress made by the Russian officials have up to the present proved of no avail, and the captives have not been released.

The St. Petersburg *Official Messenger* states that the best understanding prevails between the Russian and Chinese Governments.

At the annual meeting of the Chamber of Shipping, to be held at the Cammote Hotel here today, the subject of the quarantine regulations in force at Suez will probably be discussed at some length; several resolutions in favour of their abolition have been placed upon the notice paper. There is also a resolution pressing for a reduction in the Suez Canal dues, and recommending that representations be made as to the recent delays of vessels in getting through.

The steamer *Kory*, purchased by the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company through Mr. John White, is, we are informed, to be sent out for China under the auspices of the "Glen" line. She is 1,931 tons gross, 1,262 nett register, with engines of 200-h.p. nominal, with three decks and large carrying capacity. She is an important addition to this Company's fleet.

The new steamer *Remus*, which sailed from Glasgow on the 2nd instant of Manila, is going out to Messrs. Macleod and Co. of that port for consoling trade in the Philippines. She is a sister ship to the *Minidanao*, which was recently noticed by us as going to the same destination.

The *Thames* *Cat*, Liverpool, Taggart, Off. No. 84,775, sailed from Singapore, for San Francisco.

in ballast, on August 12th last, and was spoken sixty miles from Sagatan Island on August 24th, but has not since been heard of.

The German barque *Reuter*, from Hongkong, for Harbin, 170 days out, arrived off Scilly, Feb. 6th, with captain sick.

Mr. W. M. Herberton, of Hongkong, gave a lecture on the 6th inst., at St. James's Hall, on the subject of "Opium Smoking in China." He said he knew the reality of opium smoking, having been an adviser in his avocations as solicitor to the recent opium farmer in Hongkong. This lecture, Mr. Herberton explained, was only preparatory, as it was, for his second, which will be held on the 16th inst., and in the meantime we withhold our report. We may mention, however, that opium smoking, as carried on by the Chinese, was perfectly innocuous. He denied that the use of opium was demoralising, or was ruining and sapping the manhood of the whole nation, a proposition which involved a charge of the greatest wickedness on the part of England. Opium smoking in China, so far from being comparatively recent growth, as alleged, must have been a habit indulged in by the Chinese for the last thousand years. He had known men of all characters, from the youth, who had been opium smokers, and found them to be healthy and remarkably acute and sharp men. They were the most astute nation under the sun, and for cunning, craft, and subtlety they might be safely backed against any Europeans. They were, after their kind, a highly civilised nation, and it was not likely that such a vast people would allow this opium trade to be forced upon them by England if they did not want it.

Sir Garnet Wolsey's opinion upon the proposed Channel Tunnel has been published. Any tunnel, he says, is objectionable, on account of the extreme danger it would entail upon England. He would then have been useless to defend our coast from attack. "A tunnel once made," he says, "its approaches on this side might be seized by a coup de main by an enemy who could at the same time take care to get at once into his position all the electrical apparatus planned to destroy the tunnel or render it useless for a time. Such a seizure might be carried out by a force of 2,000 men any night, who could suddenly pounce upon the approaches on this side. If that were done by some body else, it would at once place us at the mercy of the enemy for his four or five hours afterwards. Their support, and before daybreak in the morning the tunnel would have completely passed into the enemy's possession, and could be used as a *titre de pont*, from which a great army could set forth against London, and with the seizure of London ends the existence of England's power." Sir Garnet does not believe that the tunnel would in the least degree increase our commercial relations, or lessen the risk of our breaking out. The facilities of communication between France and Germany, or between the Southern and Southern States of America, did nothing to prevent or mitigate war.

The death is announced of Commander Edward Garret, R.N., aged 60, a naval officer who had enjoyed the unique distinction of having been in the receipt of half-pay for nearly 70 years. He entered the navy as far back as 1806, as midshipman. He subsequently joined the *Majestic*, bearing the flag in the North Sea and Baltic of Vice-Admiral T. M. Russell, and on his return from China, whither he had proceeded with a convoy in the *Grampus*, he became attached in 1812 to the *Royal Oak*, flagship of Sir Pultney Malcolm. When afterwards on the duty of America the deceased, as master's mate, assumed command of a tender in which he co-operated in the attack on New Orleans in 1814-15. On the 16th February in the latter year he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and placed in charge of the *Esperanza*, cutter, leaving that vessel, however, the following September, since which time he had been unemployed on the half-pay list.

The *Thalia*, 8, wooden corvette, Captain E. J. Church, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Nowell Salmon, V.C., made a preliminary trial of her machinery last week when she attained an average speed of eleven knots, with a steam pressure of 20.3 lbs. She will leave for the Cape in a few days.

The 21st March has been fixed for the launch of the double turret armour-clad *Colossus* at Portsmouth. Her launching weight will be 4,073 tons, or something like 350 tons more than the *Invincible* when launched from the same shipyard. Major-General J. N. Sargent, C.B., is gazetted a major-general on the staff of the army, with the command of the troops in China, Hongkong, and the Straits Settlements, vice Lieutenant-General F. W. Donovan, who vacates that appointment consequent on promotion. By his appointment to command of the troops in the Far East, Major-General J. N. Sargent, C.B., escapes compulsory retirement in October next, as but for his selection he would, no doubt, have had to go under the five years' Unemployment Clause on that date. He has passed for employment under the heads of the following officers now unemployed, and who are liable to compulsory retirement this year, viz.:—Major-Generals B. Strickland, Hon. A. C. G. Lochester, W. A. Stratton, J. W. Cox, C.B., R. W. Lowry, C.B., T. Lightfoot, C.B., and W. F. Macbean. Major-General Sargent served with distinction in the China war of 1860 as second lieutenant-colonel of the Buffs, being twice mentioned in despatches. He was appointed commandant of the Taku Forts and Allied Commission, and was commended, by Sir R. Napier for "good judgment, determination, and high military qualities," and recommended to the Commander-in-Chief by Sir Hope Grant for the following terms:—"I would most strongly recommend this officer to the favourable consideration of His Royal Highness. He was one of the most active and useful officers in field, who was in a position of great responsibility, and who performed his duties to my entire satisfaction." (C.B., and medal with clasp.)

In the House of Commons on the 6th February, Mr. Dillon asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government would consent to lay upon the table the House without delay the whole of the correspondence connected with the several applications which have been made for a Royal Charter to enable a company or body of capitalists to exercise jurisdiction in North Borneo, together with the text of the Charter recently granted to the British North Borneo Company. Sir C. Dilke said the correspondence referred to will be found in the papers relating to the affairs of Sooloo and Borneo, and to the grant of a Charter of Incorporation to the British North Borneo Company, which are about to be laid upon the table for public view, and which will contain a copy of the charter.

An exchange says that America contains more patriots than any other country in the world. No sooner does a statesman become a member of the Cabinet than he appoints his son for duty in his country's service.

A strange discovery has been made in the vicinity of Aberfeldy by some labourers who were draining a field by the roadside, when they came upon an old iron box, which, when opened, was found to contain 20 old muskets with flintlocks and six large pistols. A faded document was also found, which, being deciphered, was seen to be from Captain Rodick to Lieutenant C. of Aberfeldy, and directed the carrying out of a plan against a certain Murphy. It is remembered that a man named Murphy was murdered 60 years ago, and the discovery is believed to be a relic of Whiteboyism.

"LA SONNAMBULA."

We would remind our readers that the Italian Opera Company will appear at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, this evening in the well known and popular opera "Lassomnambula." This melodrama of Italian opera was written by Romani, and the music composed by the celebrated maestro Bellini. The following brief sketch of the plot and incidents may prove interesting to those who have not previously seen the opera on the stage:—

The scene is laid in a village in Switzerland, and the drama opens with the rejoicings of the inhabitants in honour of the nuptials of *Aminta*, an orphan, and *Elvina*, a young and wealthy landowner. The festivities displease *Lisa*, the proprietress of the village hostelry, who aspires to a higher position, and she gives vent to her expressions of jealousy and discontent with coldness and disdain the attentions of *Alfredo*, a simple-hearted peasant, who excites her anger by organizing the demonstration in honour of the approaching wedding. This demonstration awakens *Aminta* from his slumbers, and she quits her dwelling with *Theresa* to return thanks to her neighbours for their good wishes. The time for the marriage ceremony arrives, and the contract is being signed, when the village is startled by the crack of whips and the clatter of wheels, indicating the arrival of some important personage. This proves to be the Count *Rodolpho*, who evinces an interest in the scene around him, and pays such marked attention to the bride elect, that *Elvina* becomes jealous of him. The night darkens, and *Theresa* warns the villagers to proceed to their homes, as the place is said to be haunted. The stranger, however, treats the superstition with ridicule, and retires into the inn. All present went their way homeward with the exception of *Elvina* and *Aminta*, who slightly upbraid each other, and finally agree to mutual concessions.

The scene now changes to the Count's sleeping apartment, whither he is conducted by *Lisa*. Tempted by her coquettish manner, he converses familiarly with her, when he is interrupted by a noise without. *Lisa* conceals herself in a closet, dropping her handkerchief as she flies thither, and the Count perceives a graceful figure in white standing on the balcony outside his casement. He recognises *Aminta*, walking in her sleep; she enters the room, and he determines not to disturb her, but leaves her, as he supposes, alone. *Lisa* then flies from her concealment, and runs to arouse *Elvina*. After a short time the villagers present themselves, and are surprised to find *Aminta* in the Count's apartment. *Lisa* then enters with *Elvina*. *Aminta* awakes, and becomes for the first time aware of her position. She is spurned by lover and friends, who disbelieve all assurances of her innocence, and *Elvina* quits her, overcome by disappointment and regret. Some days afterwards, while *Aminta* is walking with *Theresa*, *Elvina* appears, and she again implores him to believe her innocent. He, however, is inexorable, and is subsequently prevailed upon by *Lisa* to accept her hand. As *Elvina* and *Lisa* are departing to the church, they are met by the Count, who endeavours to explain themselves, but *Elvina* remains incredulous, when, from the window of a neighbouring mill *Aminta* is seen to emerge, in a state of somnambulism. She crosses a plank bridge, and descending a flight of insecure steps, appears suddenly amongst her neighbours, and utters expressions in her sleep which prove her attachment to *Elvina*, who is now persuaded of her innocence and restores to her finger a ring, snatched thence in the first transport of his anger. The story is then brought to a conclusion by the returning consciousness of *Aminta*, the exclamations of the villagers, and the restoration of all parties to happiness except *Lisa*, who is overcome by shame at the revelation of the fact that her handkerchief has been discovered in the Count's room.

RAILWAYS FOR CHINA.

It appears now definitely settled, says the *Foochow Herald* that China is to have railways; but, with the contrary character of the nation, they may not be allowed to introduce and develop the scheme purely and solely by themselves, and of their own accord, without the slightest shade of compulsion. Considering the repugnance the Chinese had to this method of locomotion, we can only account for their so suddenly entertaining an idea which they so recently repulsed, to Liu Ta Jen's report after his visit to England, which has recently occasioned a "change of course" of the vision of their dreams. Although this Minister assumed an air of the most utter indifference whilst viewing our locomotive and other machinery, and in fact, if pressed for an opinion gave one adverse to the utility of such machinations, still there is very little doubt his Highness quietly, though fully, appreciated these inventions he deemed it policy to condemn. Shanghai is of course selected for chief railway depot, and landed property is therefore naturally becoming enhanced in value. The railway itself is to be constructed for the adaptation of only passenger and light freight traffic, and will extend up the Yangtze valley as far as Nanking. We further understand that Japan is tendering for the contract, which we have little doubt she could execute sufficiently satisfactorily as to answer the Chinese requirement; whilst certainly, if their estimate is anything reasonable, the contract should justly be given to that country.

DISCOVERIES OF MINERALS IN JAPAN.

The *Nichi Shinbun* mentions that a man, by name Shinoda Utonosuke, who is now engaged in the gold mines at Hiji, Mogami district, Uzen province, has inspected various mountainous regions in Miyagi Ken at the request of the Prefect, and discovered some hundred different veins of gold, silver, copper, and lead, and specimens of different kinds of stone. Samples of these discoveries have been sent to Mr. Yamakouchi, the Assistant Vice-Minister of the Imperial Household Department, and by him submitted to His Majesty the Emperor. It has been decided by the Commissioners for the construction of the New Imperial Palace that the products shall be used for the ornamentation of the buildings, with the twofold object of proving the national wealth of the Empire, and of dispensing with foreign articles. Therefore, orders for the manufacture of mantel-pieces, water-basins, &c., have been given to Messrs. Shinoda and Totsuka, who accordingly have already made and forwarded to the authorities several articles, including pillars made of coloured granite. It is said to be the opinion of the discoverer that, as mineral products are so abundant in Miyagi Prefecture, they should exist in large quantities in many other parts of the Empire; and that therefore the best way to enrich this country is the development of the mining industry.—*Japan Mail*.

We learn from Sofia that some Turkish officers and soldiers have massacred a Christian family at Luca, a village in Macedonia, and carried off four men, three women, six children, and 2,000. The villages around Castoria are being plundered, and anarchy reigns, it is said, throughout all Macedonia.

Baron Alphonse de Rothschild purchased for his wife the famous necklace of pearls sold for \$134,000 at the auction of Mme. Blanca's jewels. The Monaco lady's diamond-studded fan was, by the way, valued at \$25,000.

SLAVERY.

It is not very easy to understand what object Sir John Smale and his friends of the Association for the Promotion of Social Science have set themselves in their crusade against the so-called domestic slavery in Hongkong. A cry of 20,000 human beings held in bondage in a British colony is no doubt a very taking one with which to go before the home public, and it would be easy to find crowds of worthy well-meaning people ready to lift up their hands in amazement and join in demanding that this scandal on the British name should at once and for ever be put a stop to. But these same enthusiasts would be somewhat pained to know what, to do on learning that the laws against slavery are just as stringent in Hongkong as in England, and that the Courts of Justice are even for the most strict complainant in the one place as much as in the other; and further that during all these years not one out of a large number of so-called slaves has come forward to complain or to claim protection against their oppressor. The natural inference that common sense would draw from this is that there can be nothing very far wrong, and it is surely the extreme of philanthropy to insist on releasing an innocent grievance of which no one complains and by which no one is hurt. The speakers who took part in the discussion which followed the delivery of Sir John's address seem to have been somewhat in this difficulty, for no one had any particular remedy to suggest, and they seem to have been satisfied with the assurance that the whole subject would be brought before the House of Commons at an early date. We shall thus doubtless hear more about it in due course; but in the meantime it may not be unprofitable to lay before our readers the salient features of the system of domestic servitude, as it actually obtains in China, and of course among the Chinese residents in Hongkong.

The Chinese themselves often class together hired servants and bought servants under the same category as *slaves*, so that it is fairly an arguable question whether the ordinary significance of the term slavery is applicable to any class of individuals in this country. But not to quibble about terms, we shall use it to denote those whose services are transferred from one person to another of whom undoubtedly a large class exists. The origin of ownership is to be found in the almost absolute control which the law of China gives to a parent over his child. By illegitimate intercourse a parent can sell a son or daughter, and the purchaser acquires all the rights which the parent had, and this, with the exception of criminal slaves, is the only mode in which servitude can originate, for though the children of slave parents are themselves slaves to the original master, they cannot be sold away to a new master except by their own parents. Sales are confined entirely to the cases of young children. A grown-up son could not be sold at least against his will, and an adult male who had been bought, when a child, could not be resold, for the simple reason that no one would care to buy him, and that because there is no effective means of preventing his running away or of compelling him to work. His services could not be turned to useful account, and therefore he is valueless. The only purpose for which male children are bought, roughly speaking, is that of adoption. A childless family or widow purchases a son in order that after rearing him up in kindness he may be the prop and stay of old age. In no case is this ever done as a mercantile transaction to make money by a resale. With girls, however, it is somewhat different. They cannot so easily be away, and their services as servants are more under control and more valuable. They are largely bought young, and reared up in order to be re-sold at an enhanced value either as servants or concubines. In the latter case, the period of bondage practically comes to an end, for though technically the power of resale remains with the master of the household, yet it cannot be exercised after the concubine has borne a son, and in any case it never is exercised except for serious delinquencies. In the case of those that continue to be sold, law and custom both demand that the master should find them a partner in marriage. If they are married to a free person, they of course also become free; and the children are free; but even if married to another slave they cannot afterwards be sold away from one another, nor can their children be taken from them.

In regard to coercion, the master has generally the same power over his slaves as he has over his own children. He may correct them to his degree of severity he pleases, and even to kill them entails but a nominal penalty. Offences committed against their masters are punishable by the Magistrate in the same degree as offences by children; that is very much more severely than between equals, and it is curious to note that hired servants are generally in the same predicament.

The system is one in which there is room for abuse, no doubt; but as a matter of fact abuses seldom or never occur. In Hongkong the question is complicated by its connection with the social evil and the prevalence of kidnapping, and so far as the efforts of Sir John Smale and his friends are directed against crimes of that nature, they have our warmest sympathies, but to raise an outcry against the Chinese system of domestic servitude in general is only to mislead public benevolence and throw away their chances of effecting some good where it is most needed. Chinese slavery will correct itself as the people advance in wealth and intelligence, and meantime at the cost of a theoretical evil it effects in many cases a practical good. At the cost of a nominal servitude many children are rescued from premature death.—*Shanghai Courier*.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

Some further correspondence on the opium trade has taken place on both sides. Sir George Birdwood, in a further letter to *The Times*, says:—"The vital question at the bottom of the subject is, namely, the chemical composition of opium smoke—is one, not for further popular discussion, but for scientific experiment. The essential fact, or alleged fact, on my side is that none of the active principles of opium are volatile; and, in order to place this fact beyond dispute, I have arranged to send for obtaining from Bombay, Madras, Singapore, Canton, and Shanghai sufficient samples of the different kinds of *chandoos* prepared at each of these places, together with the pipes, lamps, &c., in common use, in order that the chemistry of opium smoking may be experimentally tested in this country. My point is, that none of the active principles of opium are volatile—i.e., smokable. The fallacy of that fact must first be proved before my views can be legitimately gained. But so far as fact, and this being so, I will only add, in reply to Sir Wilfrid Lawson's twitting, that most certainly might Archbishops smoke opium without in the slightest degree sulling the spotless sanctity of lawn, or even archbishops, without contamination to their shining essences of ethereal light.

Mr. Donald Matheson, writing to the same journal, says:—"The delightful simplicity with which Sir George Birdwood sweeps away every possible quibble of conscience from the mind of John Bull on the subject of opium smoking may well be compared to the first fascinating whiff from the pipe; for its repetition may lead to fatal results. To place opium smoking on a par with

tobacco smoking makes the anti-opium agitation as ridiculous as four British Governments were to lead a crusade against the use of cigarettes. Let me give one simple fact in reply. Of more than twenty churches of societies represented in China by more than 100 Protestant missionaries, it is an indispensable condition of admission to church membership that there should be entire abstinence from the use of opium. One of their number, speaking at a conference of missionaries at Shanghai, in 1877, said:—"We who live among these people . . . can alone conceive the extent and power of this dreadful scourge. It is sweeping over the land like a dreadful hurricane, destroying the very life-blood of the people." Put in contrast with this the use of wine, beer, and spirits in this country, for which no one but the extreme fanatic would deprive a person from church membership, and we perceive the difference between opium and alcohol. The only possible parallelism is the use of opium with the abuse of alcohol.

Mr. Boulger also contributes a letter bearing on the recent proposed increased import duty on opium into China to 15s. 10d. per chest. At the same time it is well known, and admitted by the Emperor himself that the consent of the British Government is necessary to make this decision valid, as the effect is in flagrant contravention of the terms of the treaty arrangement, which fixed the import duty at 15s. 10d. per chest. The Viceroy of Nankin is the celebrated Tso Tsung T'ang, the successful commander in Central Asia, and in another capacity, the recognised leader of the old China party at Peking. Had he and those with whom he is connected the power, opium is not the only foreign article that would come under their ban; they would at a stroke put a stop to all foreign intercourse. Nor will the effect allowing him to revivify, with our permission, the import duty on opium have much practical effect. The amount of opium imported within his jurisdiction is small; and, small as it is, it can evade a prohibitive tax by following a different avenue into China. No far as the actual result it might just as well never have been issued; but then its publication will do no harm to anybody, and it will enable Tso Tsung T'ang to say that he has been consistent in his views, and that he is a worthy champion of the traditional customs of China. The Peking authorities are still divided among themselves upon the subject as upon many others, but the object they have mainly at heart is the increase of the revenue, with the development of the national resources. Opium helps the former without injuring or retarding the latter. Therefore they are growing opium over the better half of the country, granting monopolies for its sale in Kwangtung, and no doubt, taking diplomatic steps to obtain the right to place as high a duty on its importation as the nature of the demand will allow. The peculiar powers granted to Tso as Viceroy of Nankin will have little or no effect upon the consumption of opium, nor will they interfere with the other desires of the Government. They gratify a successful general, and they tend to exalt the moral sentiment of the nation. We may set this edict aside as a skilful move in party politics, or as another to the manifest inconsistencies of Chinese practice.—*London and China Express*.

THE SHANGHAI THEATRE.

The New Lyceum Theatre is an institution of a semi-public nature. It was not built by a public subscription, but those who contributed the money did so with a more or less public object in view. They got debentures bearing interest for their money, and therefore a convertible security. People did not go into it as a speculation, but with a view to aid the general amusement, and to be able to get some of their money back again if they wished. A great many people have sold their twenty-five tael debentures at a considerable discount; a number of debentures changed hands at 15s. 10d. or about 50 per cent. discount. The interest of 8 per cent. per annum was unpaid for several years, and it was not until Mr. John Jackson's dramatic company, the *Sigors*, or *Capit*, came here in 1879 that a flow of back dividends fell upon the fortunate purchasers of the depreciated debentures. Now the debenture holders are refreshed with some dividends, and they are fairly satisfied with the existing state of things. But not so the A.D.C. The amateur actors feel acutely the cruelty of being exposed to competition of even theatre-rate professionals, and they desire to control the theatre. Accordingly a scheme is on foot to enable the A.D.C. to acquire its control. Renters are to subscribe 10s. a year, and have tickets for A.D.C. performances. Nobody but renters are to have tickets for the A.D.C. performances. There is to be no gallery. The A.D.C. perceive that the time is gone past for men in women's attire to endeavour to impress upon the spectators by a wretched imitation of feminine graces. Shanghai is no longer prepared to make believe in "the old woman of the A.D.C.," that incarnation of a spiteful elderly female, with three new dresses in one night, is a relic of by-gone times. So real ladies are to act. But the historic genius that exists amongst the ladies is not to be exposed to the vulgar gaze. Four hundred of the aristocracy of the place only are to be permitted to enjoy these Thespian treats. There are to be no gods in the gallery; only the symmas and their friends in the stalls and dress circle.

The *quid pro quo* offered by the renters of the A.D.C. to the debenture holders is the payment of the interest on the debentures of eight per cent. we believe. When the Theatre was first projected, it was expected that the comparatively precarious revenue, derived from the Corps of amateurs, would soon be exchanged for professional actors. The importance of Shanghai as a growing and prosperous community, it was then said, is sufficiently recognized abroad to ensure the frequent advent here of theatrical companies, whenever they can rely upon finding a safe and commodious home amongst us. So ran the prospectus upon which people were asked to take shares. The plan was eventually carried out, with the assistance of the Recreation Fund. The shares were changed to debentures, and when the theatre is freed from the debenture debt, it is to remain in the hands of trustees for the benefit of the public. As we understand the scheme at present mooted, the A.D.C. or the body of renters are to pocket the profits after paying the interest on the debentures. But the debentures themselves ought to be paid off, besides the interest. The expectation of a large income from professional companies was doomed for a number of years to disappointment. They are coming in greater quantities now, and although some of them may be beneath criticism they seem to please their public, many of whom perhaps prefer even Willard's Wanderers to the A.D.C. But of one thing we are certain, that if it becomes known amongst the travelling professionals that they may have to submit their performances to the censorship of the A.D.C. the knowledge is likely to make them hesitate before coming here.

We believe that if the debenture holders are consulted as they ought to be, they will express themselves satisfied with the prospects of their interest being paid under the system of free competition, and the trustees should certainly consult the public interest rather than the tastes of a class. But after all, if the A.D.C. want private performances, why not hire the house and keep it private?—*Shanghai Mercury*.

KOREA AS SHE WAS AND AS SHE IS NOW.

Korea, a peninsula in the Far East, for a long time isolated and untouched by external pressure, is about to emerge from darkness into light. What is the cause of her abandoning her isolation? It is the treaty concluded between Japan and Korea in 1876, and the strong impression made by the bombardment by the American and French fleets, in addition to the persuasive policy of the Chinese Government. At first the Koreans, as bitterly despised Europeans and Americans, and regarded them as savages, as we did some twenty years ago. Consequently when they saw the American and French men-of-war surveying their coast they met upon them, precisely as the Chinese men attacked the foreign ships at Shimonoseki. In Korea the complaint was returned by the destruction of her coast forts and striking terror into her people, whilst in Japan the people were impressed with the superiority of foreign arms, which latter became a subject of interest to the intellectual class. Thus the Koreans received the same impressions as we did ourselves. That occurrence, however, was not yet enough to cause Korea to change her isolated policy; the Government remained in *status quo ante*, and the people assumed a hostile attitude against all foreigners. In 1875, when His Majesty's ship *Corymbus* was surveying the bay of Kookwa, she was fired upon. In acknowledgment of the compliment she bombarded Yessu, a fort in the bay, destroyed it, burnt down a tower, and took away all the ammunition, thus striking the Koreans with the same events account for the weakness of the Korean and the terror they have of foreign arms. Availing themselves of the opportunity, when the Koreans discovered their inability to resist the power of foreign arms, and shrank in consternation and bewilderment, the Government sent out seven ships with an ambassador, who alternately threatened and reasoned, succeeded in concluding a treaty. This was the first step towards the enlightenment of Korea. In her then dilemma she had sent an ambassador to China for advice regarding her diplomatic relations with Japan, and upon him the Chinese officials impressed the absolute necessity for Korea to establish friendly relations with foreign nations. A proof of this is contained in the letter then sent to the Korean Government by Li Hung Chang, and which was published at the time in the Japanese papers. Korea has always placed the utmost confidence in China, and the advice given by the above named statesman has undoubtedly had a great effect upon Korea in inducing her to open her doors to foreign intercourse. We will now proceed to point out the seed of innovation had already sprung up in Korea. The first ambassador, who came to Japan after the treaty was concluded, was Kinkishu, and the second Kinkishu, but besides them there came many Korean officials incognito to inspect the civilisation of Japan. Such visitors were shobekko and others, and it is very likely that the knowledge acquired by them, and the blessings of civilization they witnessed, gave an impetus to the growth of a new line in Korea. The establishment of a foreign office for instance, the remodeling of the military system after that of Japan, the study of modern sciences, all this had been the result of the visit of the Korean officials, and the present aspect of Korea must be taken as foreboding her future. Thus, according to the latest news from that country, one Kori-kaku was sentenced to death for having urged the necessity of an anti-foreign policy upon the throne, and having reproached the King. Many following his example were exiled, and great excitement prevailed. In Japan too there was great excitement when the foreigners first set foot on her soil, and anti-foreign agitation was at its height, but the agitators were all severely punished. The present condition of Korea is precisely the same, and we may say that she is now in the first stage of civilization.

The real power of the Korean Government is in the hands of the progressive party, whilst the anti-foreign agitators are gaining popularity among the people, but impartial lookers-on must see how much they are in the wrong in persisting in this isolation policy. Nevertheless they are looked upon by the people as men of the true faith. When about twenty years since a Japanese anti-foreign agitator killed an Englishman at Namsamugi, and the British Legation, which then stood in Takanawa, was attacked, the public looked upon these barbarous outrages as meritorious acts, yet after the revolution had taken place, all these agitators discovered their mistake and employed their energies in the work of progress. For this reason it will not be in vain to hope that the Korean anti-foreign agitators will in no very remote distance discover their fault. It is now impossible for the Government to restore her isolation, nor will the Government remain long in this dream, so dear to Korean minds. The Koreans have seen the men-of-war and different products of modern civilization, and by degrees they will get an insight into the condition of the whole world. The diplomats of the Tokugawa Government knew nothing about the outside world, as is the case with the Koreans now. We do not give the anti-foreign agitation credit for enough power to overthrow the existing Government, as there are neither *daimios* nor a *Shogun* in Korea. Therefore the power rests with the King, and the agitators cannot go so far as to completely destroy his authority. Besides, the Korean Government is not so weak as was the Tokugawa Government, which shivered in the collision with the united forces of the *daimios* and Imperialists, but no matter whether these agitators see their error or not, civilization has now a firm hold on the country and will inspire it with new life.—Translated from the *Choya Shinbun* in the *Japan Herald*.

MAILS LEAVING HONGKONG.

A MAIL WILL LEAVE
For Shanghai.—Per *Fookang*, to-morrow, the 10th instant, at 6 A.M.
For Saigon.—Per *Penedo*, to-morrow, the 10th instant, at 9 A.M.
For Saigon.—Per *Volmer*, to-morrow, the 10th instant, at 11 A.M.
For Swatow.—Per *China*, to-morrow, the 10th instant, at 11 A.M.
For Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow.—Per *Fookang*, on Monday, the 20th instant, at 5 P.M.
For Portland (Oregon) and San Francisco.—Per *Meath*, on Tuesday, the 21st instant, at 4.30 P.M.
For Nagasaki and Yokohama.—Per *Sunda*, on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, at 11.30 A.M.
For San Francisco.—Per *Metapedia*, on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, at 2.30 P.M.
For Manila.—Per *Esmeralda*, on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, at 3.30 P.M.
For Port Darwin, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, &c.—Per *Tamandee*, on Thursday, the 23rd instant, at 3.30 P.M.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

The steamer *Ocean*, from Sydney, via Freemantle, W.A., arrived at Sourabaya, en route for Hongkong, on Sunday, the 19th February.
The O. S. Co.'s

Intimations.